

The Vydubychi Church Choir's Tour of Canada Concludes in Eastern Canada

The Vydubychi Church Choir's tour of Canada concluded with the Eastern leg which lasted from May 10-19. After a successful concert and stay in Winnipeg, the choir sang in Ottawa, Montreal, London, St. Catharines, Toronto and Hamilton.

In Toronto, the Choir performed at a sell-out concert at St. Anne's Anglican Church. Previously, they had been honoured to sing the responses during vespers services at the St. Elias Ukrainian Catholic Church in Brampton. At that time, the Choir recorded the vespers which had been composed by their long-time collaborator Roman Hurko. On Sunday, May 15th, the Choir sang the responses during the Divine Liturgy at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral with His Grace, Bishop Andriy, as the main celebrant. A well-attended master class was held in the Cathedral; over 80 local choristers were able to learn from their Ukrainian colleagues and improve their skills and techniques.

The organizers of the tour would like to thank everyone who assisted with the Eastern Canada leg of the Tour, but especially the Hierarchs of both Churches for their patronage and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada Foundation, the Shevchenko Foundation and St. Vladimir Institute for their financial support. Without the hard work of the local organizing committees the concerts and related activities would not have taken place. Special thanks go to Micheal Reshitnyk (Ottawa), Fr. Ihor Kutash (Montreal), Oksana Metulynsky (London), Boris Balan (Toronto), Marika Diakow (St. Catherines) and Dr. Peter Kondra (Hamilton) for leading these efforts.

The National Organizing Committee would like to thank the many volunteers, sponsors and donors who contributed to making this Canadian Tribute Tour possible. The Vydubychi Church Choir truly appreciated the warmth of the appreciative audiences and the hard work of people across the country that made their stay in Canada enjoyable and spiritually worthwhile.

The tour was a practical example of brotherly cooperation between the two Ukrainian Churches in Canada, something that is to be welcomed and built upon. Their Eminences Metropolitan Yuriy and Metropolitan Lawrence are thanked for their leadership and spiritual guidance, without which the tour no doubt would not have taken place. But the most important legacy of this tour, with its three master classes, twelve concerts, seven liturgies and vespers, is an increased appreciation of Ukrainian spiritual choral music among Canadian and increased spiritual ties between the faithful of our Church and Orthodox believers in Ukraine.

CDs produced by the Vydubychi Church Choir may be purchased through the Consistory Church Goods store (www.uocc.ca/en-ca/churchgoods) or through the website of the Choir (www.vydubychi.com/recordings.html).

We in Canada wish the Vydubychi Church Choir Many Years – Многая Літа and look forward to seeing and hearing them again in the near future!

-National Organizing Committee